

Notice of Private Meeting and Reasons for Urgency

In certain circumstances, the Council may, by law, exclude members of the public from all, or part of, an executive decision-making meeting. The Council is normally required to give 28 clear days' notice of its intention to do so, under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. However, if the date by which the meeting must be held makes compliance with regulation 5 impracticable, the meeting may still be held in private if the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee agrees that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

The meeting below is intended to be held in part in private, in order to discuss privileged legal advice which is exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Expected Date of Meeting	Meeting of:	Key Decision?	Subject	Short Description	Reason for exemption
29 June 2026	The Cabinet	No	Local Government Reorganisation: Potential Legal Challenge	On 25 March 2026, the Secretary of State announced his decision to move forward with implementation of the three unitary authority proposal for local government reorganisation in Suffolk, proposed by Suffolk's district and borough councils. He also confirmed that he would exercise his power to modify the base proposal to make the boundary change requested. This report updates Cabinet on subsequent correspondence with the Secretary of State. It also seeks Cabinet's approval to continue legal proceedings to challenge the Secretary of State's decision.	Partially exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee has been requested to give her approval to this item being considered in part, in private. This agreement was given on **25 June 2026**. The reason why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred is that the Council is required by rules of court to serve within 7 days the claim which it issued on 24 June 2026, if it is to proceed with that claim. Until receipt of the Secretary of State's response, on 12 June 2026, to the Council's pre-action letter and the taking of legal advice on that response, the Council (acting through the Leader) was unable to decide whether to issue a claim.

Any member of the public wishing to make a representation as to why the relevant part of the meeting should be open to the public should contact the Monitoring Officer nigel.inniss@suffolk.gov.uk in writing or by phone on 01473 264236 before the expected meeting date. The Council's normal obligation to make a statement in response to any representations made for an exempt report to be considered in public does not apply because of the urgency, but any such representations will be considered and drawn to the attention of the Cabinet.